

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3357

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, JO, US, XF

SUBJECT: HUSSEIN'S INTEREST IN A WASHINGTON VISIT

SUMMARY: COURT CHIEF SHARAF, AT REQUEST OF KING, ASKED ME TO SEE HIM APRIL 12 TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT BY KING HUSSEIN TO SEE THE PRESIDENT SOMETIME BETWEEN MAY 25 AND JUNE 4. END SUMMARY.

1. SHARAF SAID THE KING HAD BEEN GIVING RENEWED THOUGHT TO THE IDEA OF GOING TO WASHINGTON TO SEE THE PRESIDENT. HE FELT THE PRESENT LULL IN ACTIVITY IN THE AREA, THE DISAPPEARANCE OF PRESSURE FOR JORDAN IMMEDIATELY TO JOIN TALKS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY A STRONG DESIRE TO REVIEW PERSONALLY WITH THE PRESIDENT WHERE THINKING IN THE US NOW STANDS ON THE MIDDLE EAST ALL MADE IT MOST IMPORTANT FOR A MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS TO BE WORKED OUT. HUSSEIN HAD ASKED HIM TO EXPLORE INFORMALLY WITH ME THE VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES.

2. SHARAF SAID THAT HUSSEIN HAD A PRIVATE APPOINTMENT IN NEW YORK ON THE EVENING OF MAY 27TH WHICH HE WOULD LIKE TO ACCEPT BUT WOULD ONLY DO SO IF HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES WOULD ALLOW HIM TO REVIEW THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. SHARAF ALSO SAID THAT HE REALIZES HOW TIGHT THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE IS AND THEREFORE HE IS PROPOSING A RANGE

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OF TIME WITHIN WHICH HE HOPED THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE ABLE TO FIND A FEW HOURS TO TALK WITH HUSSEIN. SHARAF PUT STRESS ON THE FACT THAT HUSSEIN REALIZED THAT IT WAS THE STYLE OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TO MINIMIZE FORMALITY AND THAT HUSSEIN WOULD UNDERSTAND A VERY LOW KEY VISIT, ALTHOUGH WHEN IN WASHINGTON HE WOULD HOPE IN ADDITION TO SPEAKING WITH THE PRESIDENT ALSO TO TALK WITH THE SECRETARY, THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,

PRINCIPAL ADVISORS ON THE MID-EAST AND FRIENDS ON THE HILL.
SHARAF SAID THE KING COULD ARRIVE AS EARLY AS MAY 25 (JORDAN'S
NATIONAL DAY) AND STAY AS LATE AS JUNE 3 OR 4.

3. SHARAF ALSO SPENT SOME TIME FILLING ME IN (SEPTTEL) ON JORDAN'S
CURRENT EFFORTS IN THE ARAB WORLD TO GENERATE SOME COHESION
AND UNITY AND SAID THAT IF THESE EFFORTS MADE ANY PROGRESS
BEFORE THE END OF MAY, THEN A MEETING MIGHT TAKE ON EVEN
MORE IMPORTANCE.

4. KING DOES NOT NOW PLAN ANY OTHER TRAVELS IN THE US IF VISIT
CAN BE WORKED OUT, BUT SHARAF DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY
THAT HE MIGHT VISIT A FEW ADDITIONAL CITIES AND DO SOME SPEAKING.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REACTION TO THIS REQUEST AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE. OBVIOUSLY KING NOW FEELS IT IS TIME TO TALK FURTHER
WITH US. I BELIEVE HIS REQUEST SHOULD BE GIVEN FAVORABLE
CONSIDERATION. IF SUGGESTED TIMING IMPOSSIBLE, HOPE VERY MUCH
ALTERNATIVE DATES CAN BE PROVIDED.
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